

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A container for holding components of a construction toy or the like and for facilitating recovery of such components, which comprises
 - (a) a container body comprised of spaced apart front and back walls, opposed side walls joining said front and back walls, a bottom structure having front and back portions for supporting said container in an upright orientation on a support surface, and a top structure including a carrying handle,
 - (b) said container having a first primary orientation, in which said container is supported in an upright position by said bottom structure, and a second primary orientation, in which said container is supported in a horizontal position by its back wall on said support surface,
 - (c) an access cover comprising a first portion formed of portions of said front wall and a second portion formed of front portions of said bottom structure,
 - (d) ~~said access cover being hingedly connected to~~ a hinge structure connecting said second portion of said access cover to back portions of said bottom structure adjacent to said front portions thereof for pivoting movement about ~~an~~ a hinge axis of said hinge structure, from a closed position, in which said access cover serves to close said container body, to an open position, in which portions of said front wall and portions of said bottom wall structure are open to provide access to interior portions of said container,

(e) said access cover being adapted for a range of pivoting movement about said hinge axis such that, in the open position of said access cover, a free edge portion of said access cover, formed by a portion of said front wall, lies on said support surface, substantially in the plane of said back wall, to form a receiving surface for the reception of components of the construction toy or the like and to facilitate a sweeping movement of said components from said support surface onto the first portion of said access cover, and

(f) one or a plurality of projecting support elements forming part of said bottom structure and extending downward, below said hinge axis to provide stable support for said container in its said first primary orientation.

2. (original) A container according to claim 1, wherein

(a) said range of pivoting motion is at least 180°.

3. (original) A container according to claim 1, wherein

(a) the first portion of said access cover is disposed at a large angle to the second portion thereof, and

(b) retaining walls extend along opposite side edges of said access cover, between said first and second portions thereof, to define an area for the temporary containment of components of said construction toy set.

4. (previously presented) A container according to claim 1, wherein

(a) outer surface portions of the second portion of said access cover form a support for said container when said container is in an upright position on said support surface.

5. (currently amended) A container according to claim 4, wherein

(a) the second portion of said access cover has a predetermined dimension in the front-to-back direction,

(b) said bottom structure, in a region adjacent to and rearward of the second portion of said access cover, is recessed to accommodate the reception of said second portion when said access cover is pivoted about said hinge axis to an open position.

6. (original) A container according to claim 5, wherein

(a) said predetermined dimension is approximately one-half the front-to-back dimension of said container whereby, when said access cover is in an open position, the first portion of said access cover lies substantially in the same plane as the back wall of said container.

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) A container according to claim 1, wherein

(a) an upper edge portion of said access cover is of tapered cross section to facilitate sliding movement of construction toy components from said support surface onto said receiving surface.

9. (currently amended) A container according to claim 4, wherein

(a) said container has a greater width, between its opposite side walls, than a width of the second portion of said access cover, and

(b) said ~~bottom structure includes~~ support elements include downwardly projecting, fixed support portions adjacent opposite sides of said second portion and serving with said outer surface portions to support said container in its upright position on said support surface.

10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) A container according to claim ~~40~~ 1, wherein

(a) the top structure of said container, in regions immediately adjacent to said carrying handle, is recessed in relation to said back wall to accommodate engagement and gripping of said carrying handle when said container is supported in its horizontal position on said support surface.

12. (currently amended) A container for holding components of a construction toy or the like and for facilitating recovery of such components, which comprises

- (a) a container body comprised of spaced apart front and back walls, opposed side walls joining said front and back walls, a bottom structure having front and back portions for supporting said container in an upright orientation on a support surface, and a top structure including a carrying handle,
- (b) said container having a first primary orientation, in which said container is supported in an upright position by said bottom structure, and a second primary orientation, in which said container is supported in a horizontal position by its back wall on said support surface,
- (c) an access cover comprising a first portion formed of portions of said front wall and a second portion formed of front portions of said bottom structure,
- (d) ~~said access cover being hingedly connected to~~ a hinge structure connecting said second portion of said access cover to back portions of said bottom structure adjacent to said front portions thereof for pivoting movement about ~~an~~ a hinge axis of said hinge structure, from a closed position, in which said access cover serves to close said container body, to an open position, in which portions of said front wall and portions of said bottom wall structure are open to provide access to interior portions of said container,
- (e) said access cover being adapted for a range of pivoting movement about said hinge axis such that, in the open position of said access cover, a free edge portion of said access cover, formed by a portion of said front wall, lies on said support surface, substantially in the plane of said back wall to form a receiving surface for the reception of components of the construction toy or the like and to

facilitate a sweeping movement of said components from said support surface onto the first portion of said access cover,

- (f) outer surface portions of the second portion of said access cover forming a support for said container when said container is in an upright position,
- (g) the second portion of said access cover having a predetermined dimension in the front-to-back direction,
- (h) said bottom structure, in a region adjacent to and rearward of the second portion of said access cover, being recessed to accommodate the reception of said second portion when said access cover is pivoted about said hinge axis to an open position,
- (i) the recessed region of said bottom structure being formed with at least one downward projection, extending below said hinge axis and providing stable support for said container in its upright position, and
- (j) said second portion of said access cover being formed with ~~a~~ at least one recess therein for the reception of said at least one downward projection, when said access cover is in an open position.